

address signal, the write enable signal and the row address strobe signal being set at a logic "low" level. In new claim 18, on the other hand, the second means sets the designating signal into a holding circuit in response to the column address strobe signal, the write enable signal and the row address strobe signal being at a logic "low" level.

Independent claims 22 and 24 are similar to claim 18 in this regard. The new dependent claims 19-21, 23 and 25-28 define further aspects of the invention including the feature of the fourth external terminal being used to receive an address signal in a first period of time and the designating signal in a second period of time.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-28 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art from the parent applications. It is also respectfully submitted that these claims clearly define the invention within the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, noting that the language of these claims is quite similar to that of the allowed claims 14-17. Accordingly, entry of these newly submitted claims 18-28 and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

With regard to the prior art cited in the various parent applications, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner review this in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 2001.06(b). If the Examiner has difficulty in obtaining any of the prior art references cited in the parent applications, it is requested that he advise the applicants regarding this so that any necessary copies can be provided.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of, either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, he is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.23549CC5), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS



Gregory E. Montone
Registration No. 28,141

GEM/vlr
(202) 828-0300